

communism that was the inevitable by-product of communism itself in Poland, from the workers' strikes in Poznan in 1956, to the university dissent in 1968, to the Gdansk riots of 1970. But Solidarity was unique in two critical ways. First, it established an unprecedented union between workers and intellectuals, making the whole more than the sum of the parts. Second, it evolved into a mass movement, drawing support from all segments of society. With the critical support of the Catholic Church, Solidarity came to embody the hopes and aspirations not only of the people of Poland, but of dissidents and democrats throughout the region. When Lech Walesa was awarded the Nobel Peace prize, that award rightly recognized the achievements of an extraordinary individual as well as the historic role of the Solidarity movement itself and the people who comprised it.

Indeed, there are many well known heroes of this movement, in addition to Lech Walesa: Bronislaw Geremek, Adam Michnik, Wladislaw Frasyniuk, Bogdan Lis, Jacek Kuron, Anna Walentynowicz, Janusz Onyszkiewicz, to name but a few of the legions of Solidarity's activists. There were also martyrs, including Father Jerzy Popieluszko, and the miners and others who died when martial law was imposed in 1981. Millions of other Poles, in small ways and large, contributed to world freedom through their support of freedom in Poland.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution we support today seeks to honor them and their movement.

A NEW DAY FOR THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, more than 30 years ago, I was the co-author of one of the strongest federal laws to protect our air, water and lands. The National Environmental Policy Act recognized that many federal activities, and many federally supported activities, affect the quality of our air, waters, and lands. As a result, federal agencies have been required for more than three decades to report on their activities' impact on the human environment in environmental impact statements.

NEPA was passed by a Democratic Congress and signed by a Republican President. It has withstood years of attack from many special interests and has contributed greatly to improvements in our environment and human health. I have been a stalwart defender of NEPA throughout its history and even defended the Act when different administrations tried to undermine its intent.

One continuing focus of concern was over the role of the President's Council On Environmental Quality (CEQ), about which I helped several administrations, including the current one, understand the benefits of having a single Presidential agency coordinate environmental policy for very diverse interests within the Executive Branch.

I was proud to have fought on behalf of CEQ in the past. However, as occasionally happens with some government agencies, I have come to realize that CEQ has outlived its usefulness now that federal agencies have instilled a stronger environmental ethic in their decision making. In fact, CEQ's role has evolved from one of facilitation to one of obfuscation. It has become an assemblage of irksome meddlers who cost much and do little. In my opinion, their recent efforts on behalf of the environment have been counterproductive from the standpoint of sound conservation practices.

Mr. Speaker, I am therefore proposing legislation today that abolishes the CEQ and leaves the protections of NEPA in place for coordination within each federal agency. This will allow the Appropriations Committee next year to have another \$2.9 million every year for much more valuable conservation purposes.

ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY SECTION, WESTERN BLIND REHABILITATION CENTER, VA PALO ALTO HEALTH CARE FACILITY, PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA RECEIVES OLIN E. TEAGUE AWARD

HON. BOB STUMP

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, in a ceremony on Wednesday, September 13, 2000, in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing room, the Orientation and Mobility Section, Western Blind Rehabilitation Center, VA Palo Alto Health Care Facility, Palo Alto, California, received an Olin E. Teague Award for their efforts on behalf of disabled veterans.

The Teague Award is presented annually to VA employees whose achievements have been of extraordinary benefit to veterans with service-connected disabilities, and is the highest honor at VA in the field of rehabilitation.

The Orientation and Mobility Section was selected to receive this prestigious award in honor of their work to develop the first power scooter training program for low vision blinded veterans with ambulatory problems. Realizing that current support items such as canes, walkers and scooters did not meet the needs of the less mobile, blind veteran, the team determined to find a solution. The team worked with specialists in Physical Therapy, Physical Medicine, and Prosthetics Service to study the various types of power scooters available for sighted individuals. In addition to their full daily schedules, the team members made the time to actually become power scooter travelers to learn to navigate on the scooters as sighted individuals. When they became fully knowledgeable of power scooter travel, they began to develop options to adapt the power scooter for use by blind veterans. Their enthusiasm, persistence and creativity paid off. Two distinct power scooter programs were developed to meet the differing needs and capabilities of legally blind low vision veterans. These programs

offer veterans a higher quality of life and a highly valued commodity—their independence.

Mr. Speaker, the name Olin E. "Tiger" Teague is synonymous with exemplary service to the Nation's veterans. The late Congressman Teague served on the House Veterans Affairs Committee for 32 years, 18 of those years as its distinguished chairman. No one who opposed him on veterans' issues ever had to ask why he was called Tiger. He set the standards by which we can best serve all veterans. I know my colleagues join me in offering our deep appreciation to the Orientation and Mobility Section for their concern, dedication, and innovation in meeting the special rehabilitation needs of disabled veterans. We congratulate them for the excellence of their work and for the distinguished award they received.

IN HONOR OF JOSEPH ROE CRAWFORD SMITH

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 3, 2000

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, today, as I speak, in Brentwood, Tennessee, the family, friends, and loved ones of Joseph Roe Crawford Smith are celebrating his life, which was so tragically and prematurely ended this past Friday in a freak outdoor accident.

Mr. Speaker, I am taking the unusual step of bringing before the U.S. Congress the news of Crawford's passing because Crawford was such an extraordinary 22-year-old young man and because his death seems so senseless and inexplicable. In fact, this was a double, horrible tragedy, because the same accident took the life of his friend and fellow University of Tennessee senior Chris Dowdle, also of Brentwood.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps one day we will know why these model young men were taken, in their prime, just as their preparation for adult life was so nearly complete. Maybe, "in the sweet by and by" in the words of that hymn. But, for now, we are hurting and terribly saddened.

I knew young Crawford. He was handsome, personable and brilliant. He was a devout Christian. He was devoted to his parents Joe and Claudette and to his sister, Frances. He was a model of good behavior and courtesy. He was an inspiration to his colleagues and to adults like this Member who had the good fortune to know him. Why, oh why, did he have to go so soon?

Mr. Speaker, in special tribute to Crawford Smith, I have requested that an American flag be flown over the United States Capitol this day in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts are hurting for Joe and Claudette and to Chris Dowdle's parents, Douglas and Anita. They are living through a parent's worst nightmare. I know all my colleagues join me in praying God's most merciful presence with them as they travel through this valley of the shadow of death.